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Supreme Court seems favorable to Biden administration over efforts to combat social media posts

By MARK SHERMAN
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court seemed likely Monday to side with the Biden administration in a dispute with Republican-led states over how far the federal government can go to combat controversial social media posts on topics including COVID-19 and election security in a case that could set standards for free speech in the digital age. The justices seemed broadly skeptical during nearly two hours of arguments that a lawyer for Louisiana, Missouri and other parties presented accusing officials in the Democratic administration of leaning on the social media platforms to unconstitutionally squelch conservative points of view.



The Supreme Court is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, March 4, 2024.

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Associated Press
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EPA bans asbestos, a deadly carcinogen still in use decades after a partial ban was enacted

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency on Monday announced a comprehensive ban on asbestos, a carcinogen that kills tens of thousands of Americans every year but is still used in some chlorine bleach, brake pads and other products. The final rule marks a major

expansion of EPA regulation under a landmark 2016 law that overhauled regulations governing tens of thousands of toxic chemicals in everyday products, from household cleaners to clothing and furniture. The new rule would ban chrysotile asbestos, the only ongoing use of asbestos in the United States. The substance is found in products

such as brake linings and gaskets and is used to manufacture chlorine bleach and sodium hydroxide, also known as caustic soda, including some that is used for water purification. EPA Administrator Michael Regan called the final rule a major step to protect public health. "With today's ban, EPA is finally slamming the door on a



Asbestos Removal Technologies Inc. staff work on asbestos abatement in Howell, Mich., Oct. 18, 2017.

Associated Press



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chemical so dangerous that it has been banned in over 50 countries," Regan said. "This historic ban is more than 30 years in the making, and it's thanks to amendments that Congress made in 2016 to fix the Toxic Substances Control Act," the main U.S. law governing use of chemicals. Exposure to asbestos is known to cause lung cancer, mesothelioma and other cancers, and it is linked to more than 40,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. Ending the ongoing uses of asbestos advances the goals of President Joe Biden's Cancer Moonshot, a whole-of-government initiative to end cancer in the U.S., Regan said. "The science is clear: Asbestos is a known carcinogen that has severe impacts on public health. This action is just the beginning as we work to protect all American families, workers and communities from toxic chemicals," Regan said. The 2016 law authorized new rules for tens of thousands of toxic chemicals found in everyday products, including substances such as asbestos and trichloroethylene that for decades have been known to cause cancer yet

were largely unregulated under federal law. Known as the Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, the law was intended to clear up a hodgepodge of state rules governing chemicals and update the Toxic Substances Control Act, a 1976 law that had remained unchanged for 40 years. The EPA banned asbestos in 1989, but the rule was largely overturned by a 1991 Court of Appeals decision that weakened the EPA's authority under TSCA to address risks to human health from asbestos or other existing chemicals. The 2016 law required the EPA to evaluate chemicals and put in place protections against unreasonable risks. Asbestos, which was once common in home insulation and other products, is banned in more than 50 countries, and its use in the U.S. has been declining for decades. The only form of asbestos known to be currently imported, processed or distributed for use in the U.S. is chrysotile asbestos, which is imported primarily from Brazil and Russia. It is used by the chlor-alkali industry, which produces bleach, caustic soda and other products. □

Supreme Court seems favorable to Biden administration over efforts to combat social media posts

Continued from Front

Lower courts have sided with the states, but the Supreme Court blocked those rulings while it considers the issue. Several justices said they were concerned that common interactions between government officials and the platforms could be affected by a ruling for the states.

In one example, Justice Amy Coney Barrett expressed surprise when Louisiana Solicitor General J. Benjamin Aguiñaga questioned whether the FBI could call Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) to encourage them to take down posts that maliciously released someone's personal information without permission, the practice known as doxxing.

"Do you know how often the FBI makes those calls?" Barrett asked, suggesting they happen frequently.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh also signaled that a ruling for the states would mean that "traditional, everyday communications would suddenly be deemed problematic."

The case Monday was among several the court is considering that affect social media companies in the context of free speech. Last week, the court laid out standards for when public officials can block their social media fol-

lowers. Less than a month ago, the court heard arguments over Republican-passed laws in Florida and Texas that prohibit large social media companies from taking down posts because of the views they express.

The cases over state laws and the one that was argued Monday are variations on the same theme, complaints that the platforms are censoring conservative viewpoints.

The states argue that White House communications staffers, the surgeon general, the FBI and the U.S. cybersecurity agency are among those who coerced changes in online content on social media platforms.

Aguiñaga put the situation in stark terms, telling the justices that "the record reveals unrelenting pressure by the government to coerce social media platforms to suppress the speech of millions of Americans."

He said that calls merely encouraging the platforms to act also could violate speech rights, responding to a hypothetical situation conjured by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, about an online challenge that "involved teens jumping out of windows at increasing elevations."

Jackson, joined by Chief Justice John Roberts, pressed the Louisiana lawyer about

whether platforms could be encouraged to remove such posts.

"I was with you right until that last comment, Your Honor," Aguiñaga said. "I think they absolutely can call and say this is a problem, it's going rampant on your platforms, but the moment that the government tries to use its ability as the government and its stature as the government to pressure them to take it down, that is when you're interfering with the third party's speech rights."

Justice Samuel Alito appeared most open to the states' arguments, at one point referring to the government's "constant pestering of Facebook and some of the other platforms." Alito, along with Justices Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas, would have allowed the restrictions on government contacts with the platforms to go into effect. Justice Department lawyer Brian Fletcher argued that none of the actions the states complain about come close to problematic coercion and that the federal government would lose its ability to communicate with the social media companies about antisemitic and anti-Muslim posts, as well as on issues of national security, public health and election integrity.

The platforms are large so-



App logos for Facebook, left, and X, formerly known as Twitter, are seen on a mobile phone in Los Angeles, Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Associated Press

phisticated actors with no reluctance to stand up to the government, "saying no repeatedly when they disagree with what the government is asking them to do," Fletcher said.

Justice Elena Kagan and Kavanaugh, two justices who served in the White House earlier in their careers, seemed to agree, likening the exchanges between officials and the platforms to relationships between the government and more traditional media. Kavanaugh described "experienced government press people throughout the federal government who regularly call up the media and -- and berate them."

Later, Kagan said, "I mean,

this happens literally thousands of times a day in the federal government."

Alito, gesturing at the courtroom's press section, mused that whenever reporters "write something we don't like," the court's chief spokeswoman "can call them up and curse them out and say...why don't we be partners? We're on the same team. Why don't you show us what you're going to write beforehand? We'll edit it for you, make sure it's accurate."

Free speech advocates said the court should use the case to draw an appropriate line between the government's acceptable use of the bully pulpit and coercive threats to free speech. □



House Judiciary Committee Chair Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, listens during a House Judiciary Committee hearing with Department of Justice Special Counsel Robert Hur, Tuesday March 12, 2024, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans on Monday demanded answers on what led to a Justice Department order that a union

of immigration judges get supervisor approval before speaking publicly about the heavily backlogged courts. Rep., Jim Jordan, Judiciary

House Republicans demand answers on 'gag order' for union of immigration judges

Committee chair, and Rep. Tom McClintock, who leads an immigration subcommittee, seek records related to "a reported gag order that forbids immigration judges from speaking with Congress or the news media about the (Biden) Administration's unprecedented immigration crisis."

The order appears to violate a guarantee that federal employees can speak freely with Congress, the lawmakers wrote. David Neal, director of the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, as the courts are known.

The Associated Press reported this month that the chief immigration judge, Sheila McNulty, told leaders of the National Association of Immigration Judges that they need approval "to participate in writing engagements (e.g., articles; blogs) and speaking engagements (e.g., speeches; panel discussions; interviews)." It refers to a 2020 decision by the Federal Labor Relations Authority to strip the union of collective bargaining power and says its earlier rights were "not valid at present."

The 53-year-old union has

spoken at public forums, in interviews with reporters and with congressional staff, often to criticize how courts are run. It has advocated for more independence and free legal representation as the court backlog has mushroomed to more than 3 million cases. Matt Biggs, president of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers, an umbrella organization that includes the judges' union, said the House inquiry was "not surprising" and the order "makes one wonder what they are trying to hide." □

Former Olympian Caitlyn Jenner backs New York county's ban on transgender female athletes

By PHILIP MARCELO

Associated Press

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Caitlyn Jenner on Monday said she supported a local New York official's order banning female sports teams with transgender athletes from using county-owned facilities.

The ban applies to over 100 athletic facilities in New York City's Long Island suburbs. Speaking alongside Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman at his office in Mineola, Jenner said allowing transgender athletes like herself to compete against other women will "ruin women's sports" for years to come.

"Let's stop it now while we can," said the reality television star, who came out as a transgender woman in 2015. The LGBT Network, a Long Island-based advocacy group, called Jenner's comments a "baffling contradiction" to her own identity as a transgender woman that is "not only hypocritical but also harmful" to the LGBTQ community. "It is disheartening to witness someone who has experienced the challenges of being marginalized actively contribute to the oppression of others within the same community," David Kilmnick, the group's



Caitlyn Jenner speaks at a press conference, Monday, March 18, 2024, in Mineola, N.Y.

Associated Press

president, said in a statement. "Such actions only serve to amplify the voices of intolerance and detract from the collective efforts towards a more inclusive society." Blakeman, a Republican elected in 2022, issued an executive order in February requiring any teams, leagues or organizations seeking a permit from the county's parks and recreation department to "expressly designate" whether they are for male, female or coed athletes. Any teams designated as

"female" would be denied permits if they allow transgender athletes to participate. The ban doesn't apply to men's teams with transgender athletes. It covers all Nassau County-owned facilities, including ballfields, basketball and tennis courts, swimming pools and ice rinks. Jenner, 74, competed against men when she won the Olympic gold medal in the decathlon in 1976. She said she has "sympathy" for LGBTQ people and "understands their struggles" but

argued that allowing transgender people to compete with women would undermine gains female athletes achieved under Title IX, a law banning sex discrimination in programs that receive federal funds. "All I'm trying to do is protect women," Jenner said Monday. Jenner, a supporter of former President Donald Trump, has been a vocal opponent of transgender athletes competing in women's sports. A New York native, she has long lived in the Los Angeles area and

ran unsuccessfully for California governor as a Republican in 2021. Blakeman has argued the ban is intended to both foster fair play and protect girls and women from getting injured if they play against transgender women. His executive order, however, also covers sports like swimming, gymnastics, figure skating and track, where there is no physical contact between competitors. The executive order also takes decisions about who can play out of the hands of leagues and gives it to the government. The Long Island Roller Rebels, a local women's roller derby league, asked a New York court to invalidate the county order, saying it violates the state's anti-discrimination laws. The New York Civil Liberties Union, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of the league, called Jenner's appearance "another disgraceful attempt" to target and villainize transgender women and girls. Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, said Blakeman's order is "transphobic and discriminatory" and violates state law. Blakeman has filed his own lawsuit asking a federal court in New York to affirm that the order was legal. □



Rabbi Chaim Slavaticki stands next to the fire-damaged Las Olas Jewish Center on Monday, March 18, 2024, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

By TERRY SPENCER

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A South Florida Jew-

ish center suffered severe damage in a weekend arson fire that police believe was set by a mentally ill

Arsonist sets fire to Florida Jewish center, but police do not believe it was a hate crime

homeless man who previously confronted the rabbi and others. Rabbi Chaim Slavaticki said Monday that the man accused of setting the fire sat down in front of his family's car on Friday evening in the alley behind the Las Olas Jewish Center, raised his middle finger and would not let them pass as they arrived for a Shabbat dinner with the community. "He was saying negative things and having us go around," Slavaticki said. He said the suspect had twice previously made obscene gestures at him and had

run-ins with others at the center. Scott Hannaford, 50, was arrested Saturday and charged with arson, Fort Lauderdale police said in a news release. He was being held Monday at the Broward County jail on \$100,000 bail. The public defender's office said its attorneys have not yet been appointed to represent him. Hannaford is a homeless man "who appears to suffer from mental illness" and the fire is not believed to be a hate crime, the police statement said. No one

was in the building and no injuries were reported. Security video shows a man setting fire to a minivan belonging to Slavaticki's wife shortly after 7 a.m. Saturday as it was parked behind the two-story building, which is on a street lined with popular restaurants and bars. The fire spread into the structure, which also houses the Friendship Circle, a nondenominational program for 175 special-needs children and young adults. It also includes a restaurant that employs 12 special-needs adults who are learning life skills. □

Gangs unleash new attacks on upscale areas in Haiti's capital, with at least a dozen killed nearby

By **PIERRE-RICHARD LUXAMA** and **ODELYN JOSEPH**
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Gangs attacked two upscale neighborhoods in Haiti's capital early Monday in a rampage that left at least a dozen people dead in surrounding areas. Gunmen looted homes in the communities of Laboule and Thomassin before sunrise, forcing residents to flee as some called radio stations pleading for police. The neighborhoods had remained largely peaceful despite a surge in violent gang attacks across Port-au-Prince that began on Feb. 29.

An Associated Press photographer saw the bodies of at least 12 men strewn on the streets of Pétionville, located just below the mountainous communities of Laboule and Thomassin. Crowds began gathering around the victims. One was lying face up on the street surrounded by a scattered deck of cards and another found face down inside a pick-up truck known as a "tap-tap" that operates as a taxi. A woman at one of the scenes collapsed and had to be held by others after learning that a relative of hers



A vendor pushes crates of chickens past a police truck of people detained for deportation on the border bridge that connects Dajabon, Dominican Republic with Haiti, Monday, March 18, 2024.

Associated Press

was killed.

"Abuse! This is abuse!" cried out one Haitian man who did not want to be identified as he raised his arms and stood near one of the victims. "People of Haiti! Wake up!" An ambulance arrived shortly afterward and made its way through Pétionville, collecting the victims.

"We woke up this morning to find bodies in the street in our community of Pétionville," said Douce Titi, who works at the mayor's

office. "Ours is not that kind of community. We will start working to remove those bodies before the children start walking by to go to school and the vendors start to arrive."

It was too late for some, though. A relative of one of the victims hugged a young boy close to his chest, with his head turned away from the scene.

The most recent attacks raised concerns that gang violence would not cease despite Prime Minister Ariel

Henry announcing nearly a week ago that he would resign once a transitional presidential council is created, a move that gangs had been demanding.

Gangs have long opposed Henry, saying he was never elected by the people as they blame him for deepening poverty, but critics of gangs accuse them of trying to seize power for themselves or for unidentified Haitian politicians.

Also on Monday, Haiti's power company an-

nounced that four substations in the capital and elsewhere "were destroyed and rendered completely dysfunctional." As a result, swaths of Port-au-Prince were without power, including the Cite Soleil slum, the Croix-des-Bouquets community and a hospital. The company said criminals also seized important documents, cables, inverters, batteries and other items.

As gang violence continues unabated, Caribbean leaders have been helping with the creation of a transitional council. It was originally supposed to have seven members with voting powers. But one political party in Haiti rejected the seat they were offered, and another is still squabbling over who should be nominated.

Meanwhile, the deployment of a U.N.-backed Kenyan police force to fight gangs in Haiti has been delayed, with the East African country saying it would wait until the transitional council is established.

In a bid to curb the relentless violence, Haiti's government announced Sunday that it was extending a nighttime curfew through March 20. □

Israel urges U.N. court to reject South Africa's request for more emergency orders in genocide case

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Israel has urged the top U.N. court to reject the latest request by South Africa for interim orders to prevent starvation in Gaza as part of a case accusing Israel of breaching the Genocide Convention with its military offensive against Hamas.

In a written response published Monday by the International Court of Justice, Israel said that claims by South Africa in its request filed earlier this month are "wholly unfounded in fact

and law, morally repugnant, and represent an abuse both of the Genocide Convention and of the Court itself."

Israel's response was published on the day that the U.N. food agency said that "famine is imminent" in northern Gaza, where 70% of the remaining population is experiencing catastrophic hunger, and that a further escalation of the war could push around half of Gaza's total population to the brink of starvation.

The food agency's statement came less than two

weeks after South Africa urged the world court "to do what is within its power to save Palestinians in Gaza from genocidal starvation."

Israel fervently denies that its military campaign in Gaza amounts to a breach of the Genocide Convention. It acknowledged in its written response to South Africa's request that there are "also tragic and agonizing civilian casualties in this war. These realities are the painful result of intensive armed hostilities that Israel did not start and did not want."



This photo provided by World Central Kitchen shows a crane unloading food packages over a makeshift port on the Gaza Strip, Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Associated Press

Israel also said in its response that it is "doing a great deal to alleviate such suffering in these very challenging circumstances."

No date has been set for judges to rule on the South

African request.

At hearings in January, lawyers for Israel argued that the war in Gaza was a legitimate defense of its people and that it was Hamas militants who were guilty of genocide. □

Gambia rejects an effort to reverse a ban on female genital cutting, but a new vote could come soon

By **ABDOULIE JOHN and JESSICA DONATI**

Associated Press

ERREKUNDA, Gambia (AP)

— Lawmakers in Gambia on Monday rejected, for now, an attempt to repeal a ban on female genital cutting, which would make the West African nation the first country anywhere to make that reversal.

Activists in the largely Muslim country had warned that lifting the ban would hurt years of work against a procedure often performed on girls under 5 in the mistaken belief that it would control their sexuality. Lawmakers referred the bill to a committee for further discussion, and it could return for another vote within weeks. The procedure, which also has been called female genital mutilation, includes the partial or full removal of external genitalia, often by traditional community practitioners with tools such as razor blades or at times by health workers. It can cause serious bleeding, death and childbirth complications but remains a widespread practice in parts of Africa.

Jaha Dukureh, the founder of Safe Hands for Girls, a local group that aims to end the practice, told The Associated Press she worried that other laws safeguarding women's



Safia Ibrahim demonstrates for the camera the tools and techniques she uses to perform female genital mutilation (FGM), which she learned at the age of 15 and has been practising for 35 years, in the courtyard of her home in Hargeisa, Somaliland, a semi-autonomous breakaway region of Somalia, on Feb. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

rights could be repealed next. Dukureh underwent the procedure and watched her sister bleed to death.

"If they succeed with this repeal, we know that they might come after the child marriage law and even the domestic violence law. This is not about religion but the cycle of controlling women and their bodies," she said. The United Nations has estimated that more than half of women and girls ages 15 to 49

in Gambia have undergone the procedure.

The bill is backed by religious conservatives in the nation of less than 3 million people. Its text says that "it seeks to uphold religious purity and safeguard cultural norms and values." The country's top Islamic body has called the practice "one of the virtues of Islam."

Gambia's former leader, Yahya Jammeh, banned the practice in 2015 in a surprise

to activists and with no public explanation. Since the law took effect, enforcement has been weak, with only two cases prosecuted.

On Monday, a crowd of men and women gathered outside Gambia's parliament, some carrying signs protesting the bill. Police in riot gear held them back.

Gambia's parliament of 58 lawmakers includes five women. If the bill eventually passes through parliament,

President Adama Barrow is expected to sign it into law. He has not spoken publicly about the legislation.

The United States has supported activists who are trying to stop the practice. Earlier this month, it honored Gambian activist Fatou Baldeh at the White House with an International Women of Courage Award.

The U.S. embassy in Gambia declined to say whether any high-level U.S. official in Washington had reached out to Gambian leaders over the bill. In its emailed statement, Geeta Rao Gupta, the top U.S. envoy for global women's issues, called it "incredibly important" to listen to the voices of survivors like Baldeh.

The chairperson of the local Center for Women's Rights and Leadership, Fatou Jagne Senghore said the bill is "aimed at curtailing women's rights and reversing the little progress made in recent years." The president of the local Female Lawyers Association, Anna Njie, said the practice "has been proven to cause harm through medical evidence." UNICEF said earlier this month that some 30 million women globally have undergone female genital cutting in the past eight years, most of them in Africa but some in Asia and the Middle East. □

Colombia suspends ceasefire with faction of ex-FARC rebels following attack on Indigenous community

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombian President

Gustavo Petro on Sunday suspended a ceasefire with



Colombia's President Gustavo Petro attends a press conference with members of UN Security Council after a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Bogota, Colombia, Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.

Associated Press

one of a handful of armed groups with which he hoped to negotiate peace accords, saying its fighters violated the truce by attacking an Indigenous community. The government said that starting Wednesday it would resume military operations against Estado Mayor Central, a group of fighters who broke away from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia when it signed a peace pact in 2016. Indigenous leaders in the war-torn western region of Cauca said an attack by the dissident group Saturday wounded at least three people and a young student was taken away by force.

In a post on the X platform, Petro said group was "violating the ceasefire agreement," adding that he believed it used peace negotiations as a cover to "strengthen itself militarily." The suspension of the ceasefire was a political blow to Petro, a former rebel who became Colombia's first leftist leader promising to consolidate "total peace" in a country long ravaged by armed conflict.

He has sought to rewire the way the country grapples with its decades of conflict, by addressing the poverty that underlies the unrest while simultaneously nego-

tiating peace with armed groups to minimize bloodshed. Yet conflict continues to rage in many rural swaths of the South American nation.

With implementation of the FARC accord's provisions lagging, a growing number of former rebels have re-armed against the government, joining a toxic slate of drug gangs and guerrilla groups to war for power.

A report by a United Nations agency warned Friday that more than 8 million people in Colombia need humanitarian help, mainly because of the expansion of the country's armed conflict. □

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Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called **Did you know about...?**, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were rela-

tively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban me-



dicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.

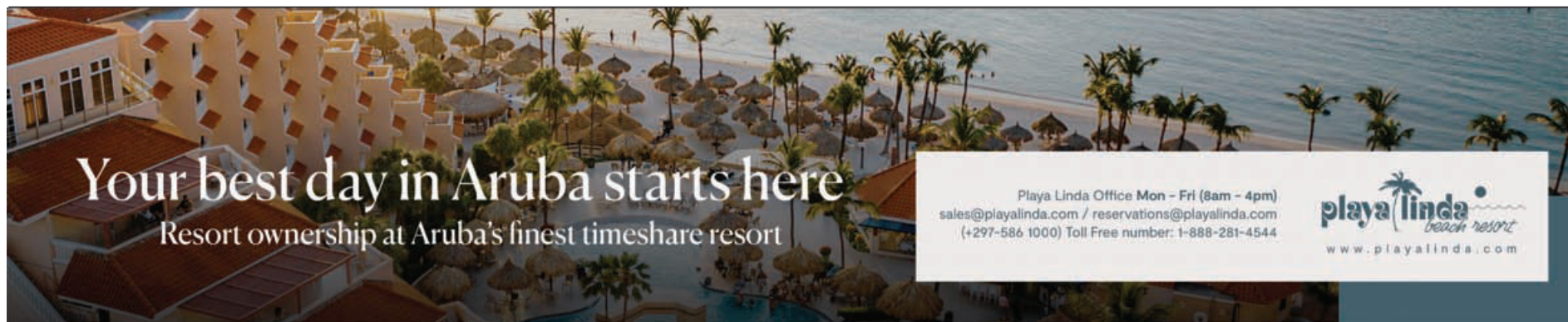
Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba

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Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamento, Papiamento is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky

during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby



beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west

part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



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Caribbean's Only Certified Carbon-neutral Hotel Switching Off for "The Hour that Can Change the World"

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba is powering down as Aruba's leading advocate for this year's Earth Hour. Being held March 23, 2024, the resort is joining the global community from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. that day by turning off lights and turning up attention on the critical need for working together in combating climate change. Guests at the Caribbean's first and only certified carbon-neutral hotel will also have the opportunity to observe what is being called "The Hour that Can Change the World" through a variety of dedicated Earth Hour-resort experiences.

Largest participation expected in movement's history

Earth Hour began in 2007, and is known for the "lights off" moment – a symbolic event to show collective support for the planet. This annual event is a reminder to the global community that every hour counts. Supporters span across more than 190 countries and territories, joining together in unity for everyone's one shared home. The Earth Hour organization shares that this is the first generation to have the solutions needed to reverse na-

ture loss and limit climate change and is also the last one who can act before it's too late.

Resort's Earth Hour events

Bucuti & Tara is leading the way in Aruba with Earth Hour 2024 plans. Guests are invited to observe Earth Hour at the resort through this year's selection of experiences:

- Stargazing Experience. Guests are invited to settle along Bucuti & Tara's wide stretch of Eagle Beach, a front row seat to the galaxy, to stargaze through powerful telescopes staffed by members of the Space and Nature Aruba Foundation. Endorsed by UNESCO and the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the nonprofit will help couples discover Mother Nature's light show, which is forecasted to be vivid the evening of Earth Hour on March 23, 2024. (The evening's forecast images are located in the Dropbox folder below in the Images section.)
- Mindful Dinner. Executive Chef Alexander Powell and his culi-



nary team are creating a sensory culinary experience that honors the planet. They'll prepare using the least energy and gas possible. The menu will consist of fresh, chilled or room temperature ingredients with some items cooked on a grill. As many sustainable ingredients as possible will be locally sourced. This special dinner is available for reservations only at oceanfront Elements Restaurant.

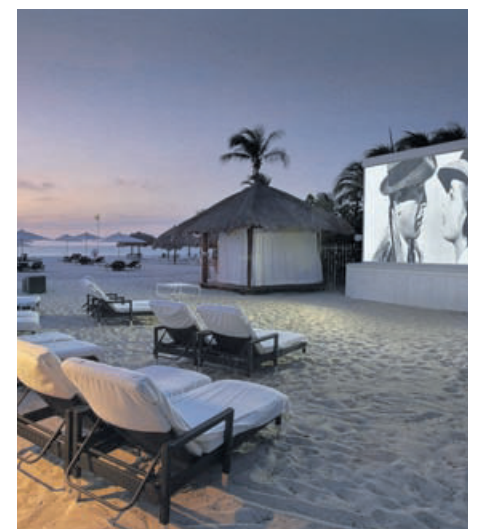
they can watch the planet-inspired movie, Kiss the Ground, being shown by a solar-powered projector.

"Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort welcomes participating in Earth Hour each year and we encourage our island community to join us in representing Aruba in this worldwide initiative," shares Owner/CEO Ewald Biemans. "It costs nothing to join in this global movement that can help from costing us everything."



- Grounding Meditation. This special grounding mindfulness meditation session will be led by Aruba's revered meditation and yoga instructor, Shanti. Her own philosophy, "we are Enlightened beings by nature," will come to fruition for guests experiencing this special Earth Hour meditation where this mindfulness practice will be centered around the Earth.
- Movie Night Under the Stars. Couples can nestle in on padded sun loungers at the resort's outdoor movie venue where

Learn more by visiting Bucuti.com



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

RCCA also offers the possibility for you and your family to enjoy dinner before the show! Starting from 6pm, you and your family can delight from the wide-ranged menu that includes a variation of delicious main course meals complete with a delectable flan dessert as a sweet treat. Enjoy your dinner even more at a VIP table complete with comfort seating!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have

a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. □



Aruba to me

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Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".



Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good after-

noon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger lo-

cals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals



(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable. Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have

to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 37 2011
 1 Exploding #1 hit stars by Lady Gaga
 6 Miser Marner 40 Follow as a result
 11 Make blank 41 Fry lightly
 12 Move with stealth 42 Most new drivers
 13 1977 Top 10 hit by Aerosmith 43 Promoted
 15 Seine summer
 16 Light metal
 17 Shark feature
 18 Passes on, as a story
 20 Snacked
 21 Horse healer
 22 "— bien!"
 23 More rational
 26 Garden pests
 27 A party to
 28 Sheep sound
 29 Lawn coating
 30 Speaks brusquely to
 34 Angry rock
 35 Belief, in brief
 36 Freud topic

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Yesterday's answer

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 9 Looked for
 10 Cunning
 14 Sword part
 19 Smooth
 22 Ship wood
 23 Secondary gambling action
 24 Showy flower
 25 Un-changed
 26 Balmy
 28 Wild party
 30 Quick snacks
 31 Conclude successfully
 32 Banded quartz
 33 Trifled
 38 Sister, of sorts
 39 Utter

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42						43			

3-19

AXYDLBAAXR
 is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-19 CRYPTOQUOTE
BODFPQ FB PZYHDC'B IZX UJ

BZXFPQ, "WCY'B OZDYX!"

— **DUGFP IFWWFZLB**
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FORGIVE OTHERS, NOT BECAUSE THEY DESERVE FORGIVENESS, BUT BECAUSE YOU DESERVE PEACE. — JONATHAN LOCKWOOD HUTE

Cruise ship Schedule: Mar 19- Mar 24 2024

TUE	19	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	1
		OCEANIA SIRENA	10.00	21.00	1
		RUBY PRINCESS	08.00	17.00	1
WED	20	ODYSSEY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	1
THU	21	WIND STAR	10.00	23.00	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	18.00	1
FRI	22	EXPLORA 1	08.00	18.00	1
		VASCO DE GAMA	07.00	23.00	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	06.00	20.00	1
SUN	24	MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

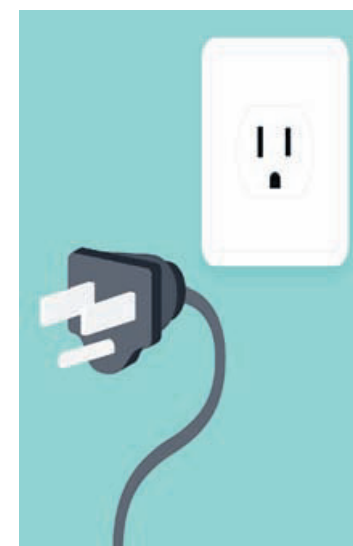
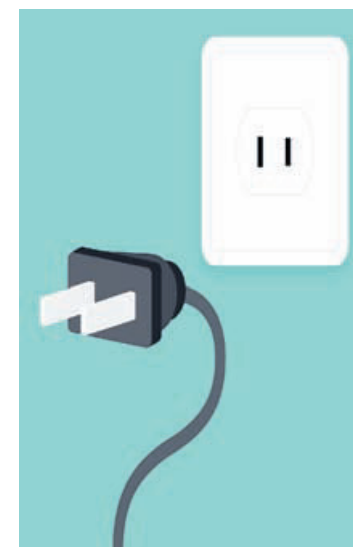
Electrical power
 Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water
 The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink.

Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours
 Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety
 Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □



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The spring equinox is here. What does that mean?



Visitors hold their hands out to receive the sun's energy as they celebrate the Spring equinox atop the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan, Mexico, Thursday, March 21, 2019.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Spring is almost here — officially, at least.

The vernal equinox arrives on Tuesday, marking the start of the spring season for the Northern Hemisphere.

But what does that actually mean? Here's what to know about how we split up the year using the Earth's orbit. What is the equinox?

As the Earth travels around the sun, it does so at an angle.

For most of the year, the Earth's axis is tilted either toward or away from the sun. That means the sun's warmth and light fall unequally on the northern and southern halves of the planet.

During the equinox, the Earth's axis and its orbit line up so that both hemispheres get an equal amount of sunlight.

The word equinox comes

from two Latin words meaning equal and night. That's because on the equinox, day and night last almost the same amount of time — though one may get a few extra minutes, depending on where you are on the planet. The Northern Hemisphere's spring — or vernal — equinox can land between March 19 and 21, depending on the year. Its fall — or autumnal — equinox can land between Sept. 21 and 24.

What is the solstice? The solstices mark the times during the year when the Earth is at its most extreme tilt toward or away from the sun. This means the hemispheres are getting very different amounts of sunlight — and days and nights are at their most unequal.

During the Northern Hemisphere's summer solstice, the upper half of the earth is

tilted in toward the sun, creating the longest day and shortest night of the year. This solstice falls between June 20 and 22.

Meanwhile, at the winter solstice, the Northern Hemisphere is leaning away from the sun — leading to the shortest day and longest night of the year. The winter solstice falls between December 20 and 23. □



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Selling your home could boost your nest egg — but is it worth it?

By **KATE ASHFORD**
of **NerdWallet**

A 2023 report from investment firm Vanguard estimates that about a quarter of Americans age 60 and over could move to a cheaper housing market and use the equity in their homes to upsize their retirement savings — making retirement more secure and enjoyable.

Those with home prices near the national median could have cleared about \$99,000 in equity, on average, in 2019 (the year the data was gathered). Homeowners in top-priced markets could have cleared an impressive \$346,000, on average.

"We're at a peak of where housing prices have been, ever, in history," says Matthew Gottshall, a certified financial planner in Westlake, Ohio. "It's been more and more common for people to weigh the option of, 'Do I downsize? Do I take the equity that's grown in my house?'"

Here are the steps to take as you consider the option.

ASSESS THE MARKET

Selling (and potentially downsizing) your home and pocketing the equity is a good strategy in a market where you can make it work. This is easier in pricier housing areas, when you may be able to trade your high-value home for a smaller place in a more affordable market. Vanguard's analysis noted that relocators in California, for instance, were more successful at clearing equity in their homes than those in lower-priced markets like



A couple watches the sun set from a park, July 10, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

New Mexico and Texas. Selling property also isn't a slam-dunk task. "Just because you want \$800,000 for your home, the market may not care," says Andrew Herzog, a CFP in Plano, Texas. "You may be in the mood to move, but if nobody wants to buy your place in the first place, you've got nothing." Additionally, you have to make sure you can afford to buy a replacement home that you like. Check home prices in your desired location before putting the "For Sale" sign out.

"My parents — the price of their house has gone up fairly substantially, but everything they want to sell and move into has increased even faster," Gottshall says.

RESEARCH THE COSTS

Make sure you understand property taxes and the basic costs of living in your de-

sired locale, as well as the costs for selling your home. (Hint: The real estate agent commission is generally about 5.5%.) Also, if you're picking up a mortgage on the new home, there will be closing costs, and rates are probably higher than they were when you last purchased property. All these numbers could chip away at your net sale profit.

"We're at a place where 30-year mortgages are at 6.5% to 7%," Gottshall says. "It could very well mean your monthly payment on a much lower-priced house is almost equivalent to the home that you're in right now."

In an area with a very low cost of living, do some digging to make sure you understand what to expect from the municipality. Are the streets and sidewalks

maintained? How is garbage collected? Is the fire department responsive?

"I had one client who had a beautiful home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," says Ralph Bender, a CFP in Temecula, California. "I said, 'Wow, you must like it, you basically pay no taxes down there,' and he said 'Yes, but you get no services either.'"

WEIGH THE CURRENT PRICE OF UPKEEP

Keeping your house could mean maintaining a big yard, replacing an old roof and managing a second-story primary bedroom into your later years. Selling gives you a chance to downsize your responsibilities and look for something that makes it easier to age in place.

"You have people with these four- and five-bedroom houses that no longer have kids staying with

them," Gottshall says. Moving to a home with less to clean and fewer stairs can make it easier to stay in your home long term.

THINK ABOUT FAMILY

You don't necessarily have to move closer to loved ones — but it's helpful. Bender recalls a client who moved with his wife to South Carolina because they liked to golf. When the client died, his wife moved back to California because she didn't know anyone in the area.

"There's got to be a support network for the family," Bender says. A community, he says, encourages social participation and contributes to overall longevity.

TEST-DRIVE THE LOCATION

If you're buying in a new city, visit in every season to ensure you like the area year-round, even in the snow or blazing sun. Vacation there if you can.

"Every area has its negatives," Bender says. "You have to find out what they are before you move there and be prepared to deal with them."

Hazel Secco, a CFP in Hoboken, New Jersey, remembers clients who moved from New Jersey to North Carolina and found that the lifestyle wasn't what they expected.

"I think they were visualizing and thinking about the difference theoretically, but I don't think they fully grasped the implications," Secco says. "They had to come back after selling the North Carolina (house), so it just ended up costing so much more." □

SPORTS:

Boxing great Roberto Durán receives pacemaker after heart issues



Boxing great Roberto Duran attends a news conference in New York, on Jan. 14, 2015.

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Boxing great Roberto Durán received a pacemaker on Monday after he was hospitalized on the weekend, his family said. "The Durán family is pleased to inform that thanks to God the surgery in our champion, a pacemaker implant, was totally successful," his family posted on Durán's Instagram account. The 72-year-old Durán

suffered health issues on Saturday due to an atrioventricular blockage. One of his sons, Robin Durán, said his father needed the pacemaker because his heartbeats were "a bit irregular due to the obstruction of the artery."

Asked whether Roberto suffered a heart attack or faced any risk of death, Robin Durán said his father was well when he arrived

at the Panama City hospital, where exams detected the blockage.

Durán was a world champion at four different weights and retired in 2002 at age 50.

The boxer nicknamed "Hands of Stone" was scheduled to be in Chicago last weekend. He constantly travels abroad to sign autographs and promote boxing events. □

Wayne Simmonds, a former Flyers star and NHL All-Star Game MVP, retires

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Former Philadelphia Flyers star Wayne Simmonds announced his retirement Monday, ending a 15-year career that included NHL All-Star Game MVP honors. Simmonds, who played in 18 games last season for the Toronto Maple Leafs, will sign a ceremonial one-day contract with the Flyers and be honored by the franchise during an April 13 game against the New Jersey Devils.

Simmonds blossomed into a durable star for the Flyers after he was acquired from the Los Angeles Kings in a 2011 trade. He scored 203 goals over his eight seasons with the Flyers.

"It's hard to describe my emotions on a day like this, but one of my very first thoughts as I look back is my life in Philadelphia and playing for the Flyers," Simmonds said.

"Taking the ice in a Flyers sweater is a special feeling and it's one that I'm truly proud of.

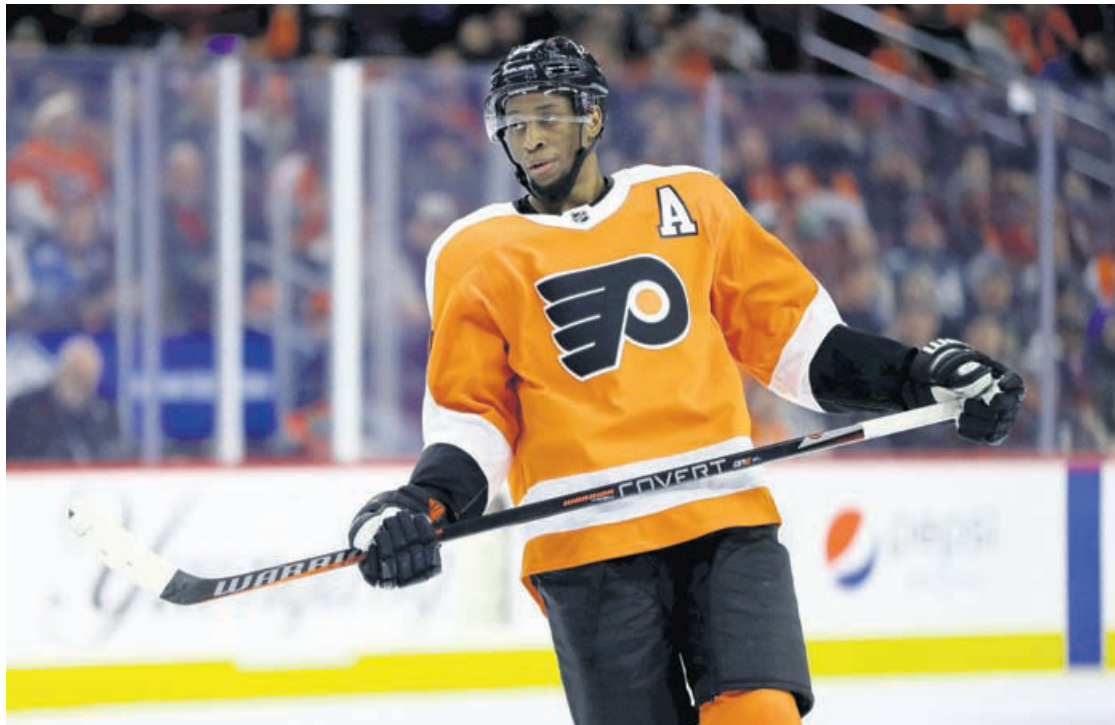
The history of this franchise and standard of being a Flyer that was set is unique and one that I hold in the highest regard."

Simmonds scored a hat trick in the 2017 All-Star Game to earn MVP honors. He was the first Black player to earn an All-Star Game MVP award since 1986. He was one of several Black players who helped form the Hockey Diversity Alliance in 2020, creating another avenue in the NHL to fight racism and intolerance in the sport.

The 35-year-old faced his share of discrimination over his hockey career. In 2013, a court in the Czech Republic banned eight fans from a stadium for one year for racially abusing Simmonds when he was played there during the NHL lockout.

Simmonds was entering his third season with Los Angeles in 2011 when someone threw a banana on the ice during an exhibition game in London, Ontario. The man was fined \$200.

Simmonds was a finalist for the 2017-18 Mark Messier NHL Leadership Award and



Philadelphia Flyers' Wayne Simmonds plays during an NHL hockey game against the St. Louis Blues, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

won the award in 2018-19 when he split the season between Philadelphia and

Nashville.

Simmonds had 263 goals and 526 career points in 1,037 NHL regular-season games in 15 seasons with Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Nashville, New Jersey, Buffalo and Toronto (2008-23). He scored eight goals and had 22 playoff points in 53 career playoff games with the Kings, Flyers, Predators and Maple Leafs. He skated in his 1,000th NHL regular-season game in 2022 with Toronto. He originally was selected by Los Angeles in the second round (61st overall) of the 2007 NHL draft.

Simmonds represented Canada at the 2008 IIHF World Junior Championship (gold) and at the 2013 and 2017 (silver) IIHF World Championships. □



Palm Beach, Aruba

Operations Hours
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Start this year's vacation with this amazing experience in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort

Water's Edge Restaurant is a jewel many had the pleasure to find!

Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy



Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with choco-



late sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☑



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**